

5th Cherub World Championships 1978

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Cherub Worlds to Paterson, top Aussie third

Auckland, New Zealand

Kiwi Cherub sailors Mark Paterson and Dave Mackay sailing *QSJB IV* put New Zealand back on top of the Cherub world recently when they claimed the fifth world Cherub title, sailed in Auckland. Second were fellow New Zealanders Mark Bell and Simon Daubney in *Bad Sneakers*, with the top overseas entry being Aussie national champions Andrew Pearson and Tony Hannon on *Stardust*. They finished third.

Paterson, one of New Zealand's top centreboard skippers, returned from a third placing in the 470 worlds in Japan to put together a boat capable of winning the world Cherub title (it was his third attempt) and shortly after launching the Iain Murray design it was obvious he and Mackay would be the combination to beat. Paterson started the contest as favourite, having won the nationals and selection trials in the same waters a fortnight earlier, and his 1, disq, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1 series reflects his wealth of experience and talent. Second-placed *Bad Sneakers*, from the same Iain Murray design as the world champion, notched a consistent 2, disq, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2 for a clear second overall, and Pearson won the top-overseas-boat battle from Sydney's Graeme Ferguson and Bruce Painter in *Firecracker* with a final 4, 3, 8 heats compared to Ferguson's 7, 7, 4 for fifth overall.

Both *QSJB* and *Bad Sneakers* were from the same Iain Murray plan, as was Trevor Nye's *Bad Jelly* (14th overall but third-ranked Kiwi boat) and the Australian *More Sting* (21st overall). Pearson's *Stardust* and Ferguson's *Firecracker* were both from the drawing board of Bob Ferguson of Sydney and while they bore some similarity to the Murray boats with fine bows and U sections under the mast, they were much wider and flatter in the stern sections. All four boats had similar boatspeed in all conditions and on all points of sailing and appeared to be similar to the other designs competing, particularly downwind.

Paterson's advantage over the rest of the fleet was his 470-style downwind sailing, and although he was often beaten to the first mark he surged through on reaching legs to win five of the seven races.

Top English entry was *Hot Dog* sailed by British national champions David Finch and Peter Lavender, which finished ninth overall. The British were all disappointed with their performances in Auckland and blamed the fact that they had not sailed for over three months before the contest. Also their boats are primarily designed for flat-water conditions. Bell and Daubney won the junior world title, while Ferguson and Painter won the cadet title for the best under 18 years

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